

Pacific Commercial Advertiser

A MORNING PAPER.

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EDITOR

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SPARE HAWAII ANOTHER LAWSUIT.

Some of the leading lawyers of the Territory have given it as their opinion that the Fairchild scheme of turning over much of the control of public works of the Territory to the various counties is not allowable under the provisions of the Organic Act. The fact that the House is dillying with the current appropriation bill with the evident intent of dealing with it only so as to bring it into conformity with the proposal of the Kauai Senator, and whereas it appears to be the intention of the majority to fall in line with the Kauai delegation so far as the extension of the powers of the counties are concerned, it is to be hoped that the questions at issue will be thoroughly considered before legislation is accomplished.

As the matter stands today, in the opinion of many, the trend of legislation is bringing the Territory to a period of long-drawn-out litigation, with the prospect of having to go through a period during which the public works will be tied up while courts deliberate.

The Advertiser has no motive in bringing up this point except the desire to see the taxpayers of the Territory spared the expense and embarrassment of a squabble similar to the one the taxpayers of Honolulu have just gone through over the muddled Municipal Act. The enactment of that law in its ill-considered state has cost, or will have cost, this city some thousands of dollars, between salaries to be paid for work not done and other salaries paid for work half done, not to mention the humiliation consequent on having business principles outraged by those chosen to conduct the city's business.

DELINQUENT RATES AND TAXES.

It is a favorite remark of those who have been advocating radical changes in the Territorial tax laws that the corporations do not pay their fair proportion of taxes, but those advancing this argument must at least allow that the corporations do pay the amount of taxes assessed against them. In a report submitted to the House last week are the figures of delinquent taxes, from which it is learned that the amount due from corporations amounts to only a trifle over four per cent. Altogether there is due the government in back taxes the tidy sum of \$98,302.42, divided as follows: Corporations, \$4,619.84; Portuguese, \$3,757.75; other Europeans and Americans, \$23,602.85; Japanese, \$7,145.15; Chinese, \$21,068.10, and Hawaiians, \$38,108.70.

In addition to this nearly one hundred thousand dollars due in taxes, the Territory is dragging behind to the extent of \$62,008.65 in delinquent sewer rates. Other thousands are due on water rates, and still more thousands on uncollected license fees and taxes on incomes.

It is probable that if all the money due the government were collected the treasury would be fattened up to the amount of nearly two hundred thousand dollars, which would help some in these days when every department is crying hard times and when the legislators are lying awake nights trying to make both ends meet in the Territory's scheme of finance.

So far, the proposed remedies for the laws in regard to the collections of delinquent taxes, rates and licenses have been opposed by a majority as acts the enforcement of which "would work a hardship on the poor." In the meanwhile the delinquent list is growing.

TIME FOR A CHANGE.

It is the opinion of the majority of the business men of this city and of a great many others that the time has come when Sheriff Jarrett should place at the head of the Honolulu detective bureau a man who could find the Capitol if he should start out to look for it. The present head of that department of the police has long ago proven his incompetence and certainly, by this time, whatever political debt may have been owed him has been paid. The time has come when the public ought to have its right to ordinary police protection recognized.

Chief Kalakiela was put into the position he now occupies by Sheriff Jarrett, at a time when that Sheriff wanted someone to fill a gap and found Kalakiela standing by conveniently. He has been standing by ever since. He is an incubus on the rest of the detective force, which might be able to do something in the detective line if the members had someone to direct them.

Up to the present time there has been a disposition not to too severely criticize Sheriff Jarrett in his new work, there being no desire to embarrass him. Time was given to allow him to shake down the department into running order. Of late there have been too many evidences of crass stupidity on the part of the detective force, however, and the public is tiring of a system that keeps Kalakiela smothering whatever talent there may be among the new detectives. There have been plenty of arrests under the new police administration, but in no instance where any detective ability has been required have there been any results. The most ordinary police sense has never been used, the broadest trails have been lost, the plainest clues have been overlooked.

It is high time for a change.

THE FLEET AND THE PACIFIC.

In a recent issue, the San Francisco Call voices the sentiments of a majority on the Pacific Coast as follows:

"If the recent agitation concerning the Japanese has no other effect it will at least arouse the fractions and reproachful cast to a sense of the absurdity of keeping the United States Navy in cotton wool off the Atlantic Coast, where its uses are purely ornamental. As a form of national decoration, an evidence of pomp and power, an appanage of official state, the navy has certain uses, but these, after all, are subsidiary. A navy is something like the cowman's gun. He does not want it often, but there are times when he needs it bad and needs it quick."

"Now the east, having quit preaching for the moment and turned sober, begins to realize that the navy, as a possible fighting machine, has little or no occasion on the Atlantic. The fuss about the Japanese, although not really serious, has directed attention to the fact, usually ignored in the east, that the country has two coasts, and if there is to be any navy it is absurd to leave either the back door or the front door undefended. Far better have no navy than put it out of reach. The logic of that policy would be to send the ships to Kansas City, where they would be quite safe."

"These things are beginning to be apprehended dimly on the other side of the mountains. In the Senate the other day Nelson asked if the assignment of half the fleet to the Pacific squadron would be sufficient, and Senator Flint, speaking for California, gave his assent to the proposition. Something like that will no doubt be done, but it should not be delayed."

"The facts are quite well understood in national administration circles, and it is no secret that the greater part of the fleet would have been left on this side had not the drydock accommodations been deemed inadequate. That is a defect which Congress should lose no time in correcting. The present condition is like carrying a gun without powder and shot. The delay in building the drydock at Pearl Harbor offers an example of the shilly-shally politics and halfway measures that characterize the course of Congress. They started with the intention of building the biggest naval dock in the world and then appropriated about half enough money to complete the work. The consequence is that the contracts are held up with a prospect of further indefinite delays. It is this policy that deprives the Pacific Coast of the protection to which it is entitled."

The Senate bill to divide the County of Hawaii into two counties has been received with mixed feelings in Hilo. The general opinion there is that Hilo itself would benefit by the division, inasmuch as the large proportion of the taxes paid in the Hilo district would not have to go to make up the differences between income and expenditure in the other districts, but that the island as a whole would not be benefited. As the number of salary bearing offices would be doubled, the idea is hailed with great approval by the professional politicians.

Of the thirteen deaths from contagious diseases in this city for the sixteen days ending March 16, twelve resulted from tuberculosis. This is an appalling proportion. The work of the women of the College Club and others in combating this great white plague should be helped out by everyone in the community.

The Hilo Tribune announces that Marston Campbell has given up his job building. It was not known in Honolulu that the Superintendent of Public Works was interested in any job, but now that he has given it up, it will be all right.

AFFONSO DECLARES WAR ON SENATE BILL

A Setta, the Hilo Portuguese organ, has announced itself opposed to the bill cutting Hawaii into two counties. As its editor is here on the spot to fight the passage of the bill in the House, the chance for a good Hawaii family scrap is excellent. A Setta says:

A select committee of the Senate members from this county wants to divide this island into two counties and has introduced a bill for that purpose.

Its main object is to make two Democratic or Home Rule counties out of the Island, which it certainly will do if it becomes law. The chances are that it will get through the Senate all right, but the chairman of the Military Affairs Committee in the House will marshal his forces, routing it hip and thigh and driving it to its last resting place in the waste basket.

The bill provides no more revenue for the two counties than there is for the one county. But the expenses will be increased by the second set of county officers and their outfits at the county seat, if not in other ways. By just that extra amount at least, there will be less money for improving the Big Island, for road work or any other needed purposes. And God knows that the roads need every dollar that can be wisely spent upon them.

Not that the roads have been improved much during the last two years for they have not. And there are many people who say they are now in a worse condition than when they were under territorial government, and some will go back even to the days of the monarchy.

There is one section of the proposed select committee law that looks peculiar and it is this: While all the records of other offices may be inspected at any time by citizens, the sheriff can keep his records under lock and key if he wants to do so. The whole of this select committee can go on a jam-boree if it wants to and leave no trace of its deeds or misdeeds, except a trail of empty bottles or other relics to show the variety of its orgy.

What model counties they will be! No police records to read, no drunks and disorderlies, no blind pigs, no assaults and batteries. Why not abolish the police force altogether, from sheriff down and do away even with the farce of locking up the records?

Give us two wide open counties at once. Let the gamblers run loose, start lottery games, the pea and shell swindle, turn the wheel of fortune. All this will bring prosperity to Hawaii and start the money circulating. It may not be strictly conducive to good morals, but what matter so long as the select committee of the Senate can get a couple of good Democratic counties and lock up the police records.

There is one great joke in the bill where it provides for transferring the balances in the road funds from the old to the two new counties. Who ever heard of a balance in a road fund? Transfer nothing. It is to laugh.

Now for the auction! All the property belonging to the present county is to be sold at auction to the highest bidder. How much am I bid for Treasurer Lalakea's safe and all there is in it? Here's a fine roomy chair, formerly occupied by Auditor Maguire, how much for it? Your last chance for a spittoon used to hold the juice excreted by a worthy supervisory tobacco chewer, with the remnant of the plug at the bottom thrown in. This relic, gentlemen, of pristine glory is worth millions. Don't be afraid to speak. What shall I say for this road crusher, boxed as it came from the manufacturer's hands, never been opened yet and thoroughly acclimated by being exposed to wind and weather for three years, how much? Now I will offer a second hand fly wheel stored away at Olua, worth its weight as old iron, the choicest lot of bargain gentlemen, that I have ever had the pleasure of submitting to such intelligent buyers.

And what will you give me for the select committee's Senate bill's chance of becoming law?

Purser Fish of the steamer Noean reports very bad weather at Kilanea and Anahola, and no freight could be landed at either place.

FIRST SHOWING

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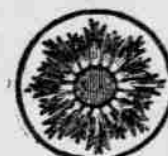
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